

Abstract

5 A tissue press for shaping or compressing a piece of
tissue comprises first and second members movable relative
to each other. A first forming element of a predetermined
shape is selectively engageable on the first member. A
10 second forming element of predetermined shape is
selectively engageable on the second member. The first and
second forming elements are positionable on opposite sides
of the piece of tissue. The first and second members are
relatively movable between a first spaced apart condition
15 and a second condition in which the piece of tissue is held
between the first and second forming elements. Means are
preferably provided for monitoring and controlling the
amount of pressure applied to the piece of tissue, in order
to maintain the tissue in a viable living condition. Means
20 may also be provided for draining off fluid from compressed
tissue, so that the tissue can be implanted in a compressed
state and imbibe fluid from the host site. A retainer,
which may be expandable, can be used to maintain the tissue
graft in a compressed condition.